Franklin Research Center
A Division of The Franklin Institute

20 May 1980

Dr. John F. Krasny
Center for Fire Research
United States Department of Commerce
National Bureau of Standards
Washington, D.C. 20234

Dear Dr. Krasny:

It was indeed a pleasure to meet with you and Dr. Winger last Friday.

The characteristics of reduced cigarette ignition propensity listed in your letter of May 9 were both puzzling and intriguing: Low fuel load seems intuitive, while high burning rate may be not so. -- However, your personal clarifications were much useful, particularly because your immediate objective is the development of a standard method for measuring the potential of different cigarettes, and not the actual measuring itself.

The experimental cigarettes you received from the NCI do not represent commercial products and generalizations from their data may not be justifiable. Moreover, characteristics other than paper porosity will modify combustion rates and temperatures. Significant among them is the level of natural nitrates, which could vary from batch to batch and year to year, thus making it difficult to rank cigarette brands, or even to develop and standardize an analytical procedure.

One of the important findings of the National Cancer Institute's studies on less hazardous cigarettes is that the combustion process of cigarettes affects the physiologic effects of smoke, and that better combustion is likely to result in less hazardous smoke.

Because physiologic effects have greater public health significance than fire hazards of cigarettes, I am of the opinion that any recommendations toward reducing the latter should be throughly tested to insure that the former are not adversly affected.

Such tests should include chemical analysis of smoke -- mainstream and sidestream, particulate and gas phase -- and acute and chronic bioassay in tissues and animals.

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EXHIBIT "A"

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Of course it will be a pleasure to continue our dialogue if you so desire, and as your studies unfold.

With all good wishes to you and Dr. Winger.

Sincerely,

Gio B. Gori
Dr. Sc., M.P.H.

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